

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (previously presented) An apparatus suitable for holding a photomask, comprising:

a photomask holder, having a plurality of through holes; and

a plurality of protrusions, wherein each protrusion is comprised of a PEEK or VESPEL material and one side thereof is inclined to form a cambered surface to serve as a supporting ridge, wherein the protrusions are inserted into the through holes of the photomask holder, and wherein a photomask is disposed on the supporting ridges so that a surface contact area and friction between the supporting ridges and chromium deposition formed at a bottom surface of the photomask are substantially reduced so that generation of particulates due to friction between the protrusions and a chromium deposition formed at a bottom surface of the photomask is substantially reduced.

**Claim 2 (canceled).**

3. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pedestal formed far away from each supporting ridge is detachably integrated into the through holes of the photomask holder.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the shape of the pedestal corresponds to the structure of the through holes of the photomask holder.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus suitable for holding a photomask, comprising:

a photomask holder, having a plurality of through holes; and

a plurality of protrusions, each with a cambered surface supporting ridge formed at one end thereof, detachably integrated with the photomask holder via the through holes, wherein a photomask is positioned on the supporting ridges; and

a pedestal, formed far away from each supporting ridge, detachably integrated into the through holes of the photomask holder.

**Claim 6 (canceled).**

7. (currently amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 5, wherein a shape of a pedestal formed far away from each supporting ridge corresponds to the through holes of the photomask holder.